

Private letter of
Mr Garrison about
Mr Phillips



Miss Anne Warren Weston,
Weymouth,
Mass.

MS. A. 1. 2 v. 41 P. 65

(Private.)



Roxbury, March 16, 1858.

My Dear Friend:

I am very much gratified to receive your letter of yesterday, in approval of my reply to Mr. Phillips's unjust allegations against Mr. Quincy, Mr. May and myself, concerning the Jackson legacy. That reply, as you can easily imagine, caused me an aching heart in writing it, in view of the close and tender relations which have so long subsisted between Mr. P. and myself, and of the more than probability that it will prevent our meeting again as old friends and confidants. But there seemed to be an imperative duty that I owed to the living and the dead to show the injustice and untruthfulness of the arraignment made in the Standard, last summer, by W. P.; and though I desired that, if possible, "this cup might pass from me," there was no alternative left me.

You express surprise that the Standard should have published my rejoinder. I hardly expected Mr. Powell would venture to give me a hearing; but I wrote him a very plain letter privately, in which I claimed a right to be heard, to the fullest extent and without delay, irrespective of any permission to be obtained from Mr. Phillips; telling him that the latter owed it to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, to the Master in Chancery, ^{to the memory of Ex-Governor Andrew,} to "the minority" of the Trustees, and to myself in particular, to make a full retraction of all his charges against us. You observed, doubtless, that while Powell complied with my demand, he had not the courage to make the slightest editorial reference to ^{my reply.} ~~the~~ If Phillips had not been at the far West, I doubt whether he would have given his consent to the publication, seeing that he refused Mr. May a hearing last summer, in regard to the same matter. It now remains to be seen what tactics he will resort to, to mislead those whom he has misled hitherto.

I am curious to know how Mr. and Mrs. Child will be impressed by my plain statement of the facts in the case, and my exposure of the contradictions and inconsistencies contained in P's articles. I trust their great admiration of his talents will not blind their vision or pervert their judgment. Their new-born zeal for the continuance of the Standard, and of the American Anti-Slavery Society, now that slavery is abolished, and its former victims are clothed with all that belongs to citizenship, is a little singular, and not a little puzzling to me. The motives of P., in sustaining them, I think I can understand.

Before sending my reply to the Standard, I read it to Mr. Sewall, Mr. May, and Mr. Winchell Yerrinton, and they all approved of it as you have done, pronouncing ^{it} "a most crushing refutation." I shall be glad to hear that it meets the approval of Mrs. Chapman, and also of Caroline and Deborah.

Before receiving your letter to-day, I had mailed a copy of the Standard to your address.

It is indeed pleasant to see that Spring is advancing, almost with a bound. For the first time since I returned from Europe, ~~us~~ she has taken a walk down the street, feeling as if she had had a jail deliverance. She visited William and Ellie at their residence in Lambert street, spent the afternoon, took tea, and returned home all the better for the excursion. Our dear little grandchild, Agnes, has ^{had} ~~been~~ a hard time with the scarlet fever, croup, fever, sore throat, cough, discharges from the ear, &c., and looks like a delicate flower ready to be transplanted to a celestial soil.

Wife warmly reciprocates your love, and Frank your kind regards; and we all desire to be particularly remembered to you all, with best wishes, &c.

Your attached friend,
Miss A. W. Weston. Wm. Lloyd Garrison

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